provisional data of 300 sensitive items imports of which is monitored by and Inter-Ministerial Group, import of fresh fruits and vegetables comprising of 48 tariff lines during April-June 2002 amounted to Rs. 256.26 crores as compared to Rs. 182.28 crores during the same period in the previous year. The growth in import is almost entirely accounted for by raw cashew nuts which is mainly imported for processing and re-export.

Investment in the private sector in NER

1811. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in private sector under the liberalisation policy in NER is very low;

(b) if so, the specific reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of decisions taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government announced a New North-East Industrial Policy (NEIP) on 24th December, 1997 for promoting industrialization in North-Eastern Region. Under NEIP the Government provides facilities to entrepreneurs to set up industries in the North-Eastern Region. Various concessions have been allowed under this policy to the industrial units in the North-Eastern Region e.g. development of industrial infrastructure, subsidies under various schemes, excise and income-tax exemption for a period of 10 years etc. The impact of this policy on investment in private sector in North Eastern Region (NER) has been encouraging as seen from the number of industrial units set up (large and medium sized), capital formation and employment generated are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

A financial institution, namely, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI) has been designated as the nodal disbursing agency for the various subsidy schemes under the NEIP. The details of subsidy disbursed under the various subsidy schemes by NEDFi are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Project (Medium and Large) after NEIP

State	No. of units	Capital Formation (Rs. in crore)	Employment
Assam	400	874	30664
Meghalaya	32	101	2595
Tripura	23	12	364
Arunachal Pradesh	5	10	140
Nagaland	1	Nil	Nil
Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
NER TOTAL :	**461**	**997**	**33763**

Statement-II

Details of Subsidy by NEDFi under the various schemes as on 26.11.2002

Sl. No	Name of the State	Transport Subsidy Scheme	Capital Investment Subsidy	Interest Subsidy Scheme
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.50	0	0
2.	Assam	52.48	5.46	0.28
3.	Manipur	0	0	0
4.	Meghalaya	23.65	0.87	0.40
5.	Mizoram	10.64	0	0
6.	Nagaland	11.56	0	0
7.	Tripura	1.97	0.75	0
	TOTAL :	**104.80**	**7.08**	**0.68**

Role and achievements of the department of NER

1812. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the mandate, present role and achievements of his department;